

and more than adequate facilities for recreation. As some of you perhaps know, one of the major programs of the present State administration is the attraction of more and diversified industry to our State. This policy led us to establish the Department of Economic Development in 1959, and, since its creation, more than 870 new or expanded industrial facilities have been built in Maryland. Our State economy is expanding at a rate nearly double that of the nation and science-based and science-oriented industry has become one of the mainstays in this picture. I should like to take this opportunity to assure you that we are exerting and will continue to exert every effort to make certain that the State continues to provide the facilities, services and cultural and economic climate that such industries require.

These facilities here at the Alcolac Chemical Corporation, together with other science-based industries that have located in Maryland, will help us greatly in our efforts to maintain Maryland's position as one of the top three research and development areas in the United States. As of today, there are more than 500 research oriented firms operating in the Maryland region which includes the metropolitan area of Washington, D. C., and the number is growing almost daily. As a company that must undertake extensive product research and development, I am sure it must be gratifying for you to know that appropriate facilities do exist nearby to assist your scientists and laboratory technicians should such assistance be needed.

I am not, of course, a scientist but I have always observed that scientists and professional people seem to thrive in a congenial cultural and intellectual environment. In my opinion, such an environment is high among the requirements for the successful operation of a science or research oriented industry. We know we have such a climate here in Maryland with Washington, the most important of the world's capitals, only some thirty miles away, and Baltimore, a vital international trading center, at your doorstep. The Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland have achieved world renown for their special strengths in medicine, science, and engineering. Add to these the universities in the District of Columbia—American, Catholic, Georgetown, George Washington and Howard—and it becomes apparent that this is, indeed, one of the great cultural and intellectual centers of the world.

I am sure that those individuals now affiliated with Alcolac and those who will join you in your expanded operations will enjoy the benefits of living and working here. Before coming here today, I had